Welcome to Year 4 – our learning year is well and truly underway! Below is an outline of our units this term:

**Religious Education**
The modules we will be studying this term are: God’s Forgiveness and Healing, Lent and Easter. There will also be a focus on the Year of Compassion in our Parish, and this will be reflected in classrooms throughout the year.

**God’s Forgiveness and Healing**
This module explores both the sacrament of Penance where we celebrate reconciliation with God, with ourselves and with each other and the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick which heals, frees and prepares us to continue our journey of life towards God. Students will acknowledge that sometimes in relationships there is hurt which requires healing and forgiveness. Students will retell stories of forgiveness and healing in the New Testament. Students will recall the ways, in which the Church helps them to forgive and to be forgiven, and gives, peace and courage to those who are ill, suffering, or frail through old age.

**Lent**
In this Lenten unit students will explore the themes of Lent and Easter in a creative and integrated way firstly, through the study of the Gospel reading for the Fourth Sunday of Lent: 'Jesus cures the man born blind from birth' by exploring its themes of faith and spiritual discernment in relation to Baptism and the celebration of the Season of Lent. Through participation and involvement in the module as well as in whole school Lent and Easter activities and celebrations, students will gain an awareness of the stories, actions and symbols of Lent and Easter. By exploring the significance of Jesus washing the disciples’ feet they will reflect upon their understanding of the new meaning Jesus gave to the sharing of bread and wine at the Last Supper and to relate the Church’s celebration of the Eucharist to its hospitality and service to all. Finally, students will explore the Emmaus story and how the risen Jesus brings hope, peace and joy to disciples who are sad, confused and/or afraid. Jesus’ resurrection is not viewed as simply a story but as a reality. Students will consider how they can bring the peace of the risen Christ to others and hopefully understand that the Emmaus journey is essentially a story about discipleship.

Please note in your diaries the date for our Year 4 Family Mass - **Saturday 3rd June at 5pm**
English

Literacy Groups
Children are grouped and work independently or cooperatively while the teacher is instructing a focus group. Children also take part in modelled, shared and independent reading daily. Some of the aspects we will be looking closely at this term are:
Reading a variety of texts
Developing strategies for reading unknown texts
Comprehension strategies with a focus on linking to what we already know (self, other texts, global)
Listening while teacher models reading using a big book or serial reading

Spelling
Children will continue to use the Sound Waves spelling program to focus on phonemic awareness (sounds in words). Children will focus on a different sound each week and how that sound relates to a number of spelling words. There is also a regular focus on spelling rules. Individualised weekly spelling lists will be based on the weekly sound, thematic words and tricky words determined from children’s own writing. Proof reading and editing skills are an important part of the writing process and are a focus for Stage 2.

We are continuing to demonstrate engaging ways to explicitly teach five core spelling strategies. We want children to think about patterns in our language as well as gain an awareness of what strategies they use.

Sound – focusing on sound
Visual – focusing on how words look
Meaning – thinking about word meaning
Connecting – making connections with other words
Checking – using live, print or electronic resources

Handwriting
Students in Year 4 are continuing to refine the correct formation of all letters in joined Foundation style handwriting. Children have focused handwriting lessons each week based on the scope and sequence presented in the Handwriting Conventions text. Correct posture and pencil grip are encouraged at all times. Students in Year 4 are able to receive a ‘Pen Licence’
when they are writing fluently, legibly and consistently with joined letters. We expect a high standard of bookwork from the children.

**Writing**
In class the children are involved in construction of shared and independent texts. There will be both class and small group focus to examine how we compose texts. Grammar conventions and punctuation will also be taught. The types of texts to be covered this term are Informative texts and Imaginative texts, with a specific focus on poetry.

**Mathematics**
Over the whole of Term 1, Year 4 will be covering the following mathematical strands in numeracy:

**Number and Algebra (Whole Numbers)**
Students will count, order, read and record numbers up to five digits.

**Addition and Subtraction**
Students will use mental and written strategies for addition and subtraction involving two, three, four and five digit numbers.

**Chance**
Students will describe and compare chance events in social and experimental contexts.

**Data**
Students will select appropriate methods to collect data and construct, compare, interpret and evaluate data displays including tables, picture graphs and column graphs.

**Length**
Students will measure, compare and record lengths, distances and perimeters in metres, centimetres and millimetres and measure, compare and record temperatures.

**History**
Our History focus for Terms One and Two is called “First Contacts”. The students will be researching the following areas this term:

- What was life like for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples before the arrival of the Europeans?
- Why did the great journeys of exploration occur?

In Term 2 we will continue with this topic

- Why did Europeans settle in Australia?
- What was the nature and consequence of contact between Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples and early traders, explorers and settlers?

Students will be guided through investigations as well as choosing specific areas of interest for them to research and present their findings to the rest of the class. We will be looking at a variety of thinking strategies as we work through this unit.
Science and Technology

Forces and Magnets
This unit gives children experience of forces. They learn that these forces have direction and can vary in sizes and they will investigate the attraction and repulsion between magnets. They will investigate the properties of magnets, and the materials that are attracted to magnets. The unit will conclude with the students designing a product that incorporates a magnet in its design.

Personal Development/Health and Physical Education

Positive Relationships including...

Understanding Bullying
This unit focuses on identifying the behaviours that constitute bullying, identifying positive strategies for dealing with bullying situations and understanding the role of the bystander in a bullying situation and how he or she can help a person being bullied.

Positive Thinking
This unit focuses on developing children’s positive self-image and self-esteem by exploring the following topics:
Feeling good about myself
Using positive self-talk
Understanding teasing
Taming teasing
Building self-esteem
Friendship and cooperation

Core Values
Cyber Safety is a prime area of focus as we start the year, and all children have engaged in interactive activities in the classroom discussing appropriate behaviour and information that should be revealed on the web and how to protect their privacy and safety. Our Core Value for Term 1 is Respect. Children will also look at modeled behaviours that assist classroom learning, playground behaviour and caring for others in our school community.

Creative Art and Practical Arts
This term our creative arts will correlate with our History unit on First Contacts, as well as other Key Learning Areas. There will be a focus on drawing techniques throughout the term. Students will be using a variety of mediums in visual arts and participating in a weekly music/drama lesson.

Homework
Homework will be given to the children weekly. It is given on a Friday and is to be returned on the Thursday of the following week. Homework will include nightly reading, maths and spelling activities. Home reading can be from books of the students’ own choice and pages read should be noted nightly in their diaries. Other learning experiences may include research, physical education activities and social skills. Throughout the year there will be a particular focus on mastering times tables (1-12) as this is expected by the end of Year 4. Parents are asked to check that the homework is complete and sign the diary. The diary can also be used as a form of communication between teachers and parents.
**BYODD/iPad Program**

We are excited to be able to design activities to engage children in rich learning experiences using the school iPads and the technology provided through the implementation of the BYODD Program. The technology will enable us to promote the higher order thinking skills of analysing, evaluating and creating which are all essential for 21st Century learning. We plan to spend the first part of this term establishing and reinforcing protocols and rules around the use and care of the iPads and the expectations around the transition between home and school. We know that technology provides opportunities to build general competencies and encourage children’s development as independent problem-solvers within today’s world. We believe that by bringing the iPad home daily, parents will have access to their child’s individual learning which will hopefully further connect the home and school learning environments. Please refer to the following table of responsibilities that was recently emailed to parents.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Students will:</th>
<th>The School will:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ensure iPads are fully charged before coming to school each day</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Have all equipment well labelled</td>
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<tr>
<td>Have required apps loaded, updated and ready to be used</td>
<td>Provide a list of apps required for use at school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ensure that the iPad has memory space available to accommodate the required learning tasks</td>
<td>Help to create cloud based storage spaces for children to save and showcase digital work</td>
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<tr>
<td>Remember to build in time for rest from screen time</td>
<td>Ensure an appropriate balance between onscreen and off-screen time each day by making use of a range of materials and spaces in learning experiences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use collaborative sites for positive communication or comment</td>
<td>Reserve the right to remove inappropriate comments or uploads</td>
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<tr>
<td>Report issues or concerns with technology to staff</td>
<td>Work with CSO ICLT Services Team to address issues and concerns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Take care of all technology resources whether owned by themselves, Sacred Heart or other students</td>
<td>Work in partnership with parents to help children recognise the privileged position they are in, &amp; to help develop personal responsibility for care of expensive resources</td>
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<tr>
<td>Take care to place the iPad on stable surfaces, and carry it with care</td>
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<tr>
<td>Not share passwords or private information with others</td>
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<tr>
<td>Choose to use appropriate apps and sites for learning</td>
<td>Provide appropriate choices in apps that represent good value and maximise learning and creative opportunities</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Provide opportunities for staff and parents about uses of technology to inform and create learning</td>
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</table>
**Reminders**
- Sport is held on Fridays for both 4B and 4N with Mrs Michelle Kerr
- Sport (extra PE lesson) is on Tuesdays for both classes
- Library is held on Wednesdays for both classes with Mrs Melonie Harrison
- Music/Drama is held on Fridays for both classes with Ms Susan Rudd

Children are to wear sports uniform on Tuesdays and Fridays.

Please feel free to contact us to discuss your child’s learning. Our email addresses are below and we will endeavor to reply within twenty-four hours.

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What a busy term! We look forward to a wonderful period of learning and growth in Year 4.

*Mrs Caroline McNally, Mrs Chris McBryde and Mrs Janelle Pitcher*